

Walter was one of many courageous men who chose to serve his community as a firefighter. He was a Captain of the Dix Hills Volunteer Fire Department and served his community valiantly for 32 years.

To all of those who knew and loved him, his untimely death will forever be a reminder of his selflessness. His last heroic moment in the line of duty saved the lives of others who he never met. As time passes, the pain will fade, but the memory of Walter will always remain a shining example of truth and goodness to all of those whose lives he touched.

It is at this time we remember Walter Hessling for his bravery and kindness and for his dedication and service to the Dix Hills Fire Department.

#### RECOGNIZING THE HOA HAO BUDDHISM ASSOCIATION'S 71ST ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 28, 2010*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today, to recognize the Overseas Hoa Hao Buddhism Association's 71st Anniversary of the Founding of Hoa Hao Buddhism. Today, Hoa Hao Buddhism is one of the six most important religions in Vietnam. Through the hardships and trials of Communist Vietnam, Hoa Hao Buddhism still exists with a mass of over four million followers closely united in their faith. In Orange County, the Hoa Hao Buddhist Church is a Member of the Vietnamese Interfaith Council, a body established in order to promote harmony between major religions in Vietnam.

The U.S. Department of State 2009 International Religious Freedom Report indicates that the Vietnamese government continues to persecute and restrict organized activities of religious organizations like Hoa Hao Buddhists. We are continuing to see more and more activists being detained and imprisoned for exercising their freedom of speech, religion and expression. I encourage my colleagues to continue to urge the State Department to redesignate Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern and fight for those in Vietnam who are putting their lives in danger in the name of freedom.

#### ON THE PASSING OF FORMER GOVERNOR OF TEXAS DOLPH BRISCOE, JR.

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 28, 2010*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, Uvalde, TX is a small rural town in my district. Uvalde is known for its plentiful trees and clear springs, but it best known for its two most famous residents: John Nance Garner, also known as Cactus Jack who was Speaker of the House from 1931–1933 and also served as Vice President to Franklin Roosevelt and also Former Governor of Texas and Philanthropist Dolph Briscoe Jr.

Last night, at the age of 87, Governor Briscoe passed away. My thoughts and pray-

ers are with his family and friends and with the people of Uvalde who he loved.

I rise today to honor his legacy. With his passing, Texas lost a legendary figure. He was the first Texas governor from Southwest Texas and one of the great philanthropists of our time.

His generosity has preserved western art and expanded our institutions of higher learning. He served in the Texas Legislature from 1949 to 1957 and then served as Governor from 1973 to 1979. He was truly a champion of the public, signing into law the 1973 Texas Open Records Act guaranteeing the public's right to information about state and local government. He was also responsible for sponsoring legislation that gave Texas its statewide farm-to-market road system. And his role as president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association in the 1960s improved the agricultural industry immeasurably.

I was proud to name the Uvalde Post Office after Gov. Briscoe in 2007 for his distinguished career in public service. And today, I honor the memory of Gov. Briscoe for his commitment to Texans and a life as a dedicated public servant.

#### DEMOCRACY IS STRENGTHENED BY CASTING LIGHT ON SPENDING IN ELECTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5175) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit foreign influence in Federal elections, to prohibit government contractors from making expenditures with respect to such elections, and to establish additional disclosure requirements with respect to spending in such elections, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chair, I stand in vehement opposition to H.R. 5175, the Democracy is Strengthened by Casting Light on Spending in Elections Act. The DISCLOSE Act is a hasty, ill-conceived, un-Constitutional response to the near unanimous decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Citizens United vs The Federal Election Committee*. In that ruling, Justice Kennedy, writing for the majority, stated that:

When Government seeks to use its full power, including the criminal law, to command where a person may get his or her information or what distrusted source he or she may not hear, it uses censorship to control thought. This is unlawful. The First Amendment confirms the freedom to think for ourselves.

The DISCLOSE Act takes us down a familiar road of the majority acting to remove the First Amendment rights of the minority, including the rights of those who are fighting to defend the sanctity of life. For over a year, the Democrat majority in Congress and the White House have held the voice of the American people in contempt, whether at town halls or on the National Mall. Instead of listening, they would rather find ways to silence us.

The DISCLOSE Act is designed to impact this year's election by immediately placing its

provisions into effect without the normal regulatory vetting process that occurs when a bill is signed into law. It is also a discriminatory bill, with requirements that do not apply equally to all citizens, but are based on the type of activity or speech they are involved in. Nowhere in the Constitution does the Federal Government have the right to decide who has the right to speak up. It is specifically designed to exempt most Unions from the reporting requirements. It requires CEOs of corporations to appear in any ads that their companies have funded, in whole or in part, and state the name of the company, twice. These limits on First Amendment rights are not in keeping with the intentions of the Founding Fathers.

This bill is an abhorrent attack on our rights and it will not stand up to the scrutiny of the courts. This hallowed body should not even be considering it. I urge my colleagues to send this bill back to where it deserves to go, the dust bin.

#### DEMOCRACY IS STRENGTHENED BY CASTING LIGHT ON SPENDING IN ELECTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2010*

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Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the DISCLOSE Act. I believe this appropriately named piece of legislation is a critical step forward to improving transparency and limiting the influence of corporations in electoral politics, and I'm pleased to be a cosponsor of it.

In January, the Supreme Court issued its controversial ruling in *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission*, overturning limits on corporate campaign activity that had been settled law for over 100 years. This created a guarantee of a free-for-all in campaign spending. I strongly disagree with the decision, and I'm pleased that the DISCLOSE Act will reverse the damage that the Supreme Court has created.

I have been a supporter of campaign finance reform since I was first elected to Congress. Over a decade ago I was proud to cosponsor the Shays-Meehan campaign reform legislation to prevent corporations from buying elections.

Today's legislation takes a number of important steps forward. It prevents corporations from spending money in campaigns, including those who receive large government contracts; those who are controlled by foreign entities; or those who received a government bailout through the TARP program.

It also forces corporations to stand by their ads by requiring their CEOs to appear on camera to say they endorse the message, just as candidates must do. The bill would also